

Hoosick Falls & Surrounding Areas News

HOOSICK FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Budget Up 3.2%, But No Tax Levy Increase

by Alex Brooks

At a workshop meeting on April 15, the Hoosick Falls School Board agreed on a budget to present to the voters, but it will not be formally adopted until the regular meeting on April 22. The budget increases overall spending by 3.2%, but there is no increase in the local tax levy.

The budget contemplates spending of \$24,061,805, which is \$756,377 more than last year's budget. Staff additions include a new third grade teacher needed to keep class sizes at a reasonable level, a new AIS Math teacher and a full-time speech teacher instead of a half-time speech teacher. There are also four new teaching aides in the elementary.

The news about State and Federal aid has been very good over the last month. State aid for operating expenses, the main line where state aid appears in the budget, shows an increase of \$724,576, but it is offset to some extent by another line in the budget showing the disappearance of the pandemic aid that was in the budget last year, so federal aid of \$335,110 in last year's budget becomes zero this year. Thus the net increase in federal/state aid shown in the budget is \$389,466, an increase of about 3.5%.

But there is new federal aid that is not shown in the budget because it will be in a special aid fund where Federal grant funds are accounted for. There will be \$1.1 million in Federal aid over the next three years which is to be used for counteracting learning loss caused by the pandemic school disruption. The District was notified of this aid only a week or so before this workshop meeting, so it has not yet had a chance to make plans for how that money will be used, and it also has not received the Federal guidelines and restrictions on how that money can be used. The administration will be coming up with a plan for that money in the next few months. The concern with this money, as with any temporary funding, is to

use it in such a way that the school does not take a big hit when the temporary funding runs out.

Careful readers of this report will be asking themselves, if net aid is up by less than \$400K, how can the budget support an increase in spending of over \$756,000 with no tax increase? The answer is that the District will apply a larger amount of fund balance to offset taxes. Last year the District applied \$1,277,483 of fund balance to this purpose and this year it will be \$1,618,728, an increase of \$341,245. Although the pandemic imposed some additional costs on the District, it also reduced costs in some areas (no summer school, no sports, etc.), so there were some extra unspent funds from last year's budget. School business administrator Emily Sanders presented detailed figures on her expectations for the end of year fund balances, and expressed confidence that the funds available will comfortably support the higher fund balance number in the budget.

Derby Day And 86th Celebration

The Derby Community Club of Hoosick Falls will be holding its annual fundraiser and 86th Year Celebration on Derby Day, May 1 at the Sand Bar Restaurant on Lyman Street in the Village.

The club started in May of 1935 when several men pooled their money at the American House on Derby Day (Kentucky Derby) and won on Omaha. Shortly thereafter, they started the Derby Community Club which has donated to many charities throughout the years.

The event will take place from 1 to 6 pm with a Chinese Auction, 50/50 Raffle and other events.

BENNINGTON

Medical Matters To Deal With Substance Abuse And Recovery

Southwestern Vermont Health Care's (SVHC) Medical Matters Weekly with Dr. Trey Dobson, a weekly interactive, multiplatform medical-themed talk show, will feature Tom Haley, the Director of the Bennington Turning Point Center on Wednesday, April 28 at noon. The discussion will center around substance abuse and recovery.

The show is produced with cooperation from Catamount Access Television (CAT-TV). Viewers can see Medical Matters Weekly live on Facebook at facebook.com/svmedical



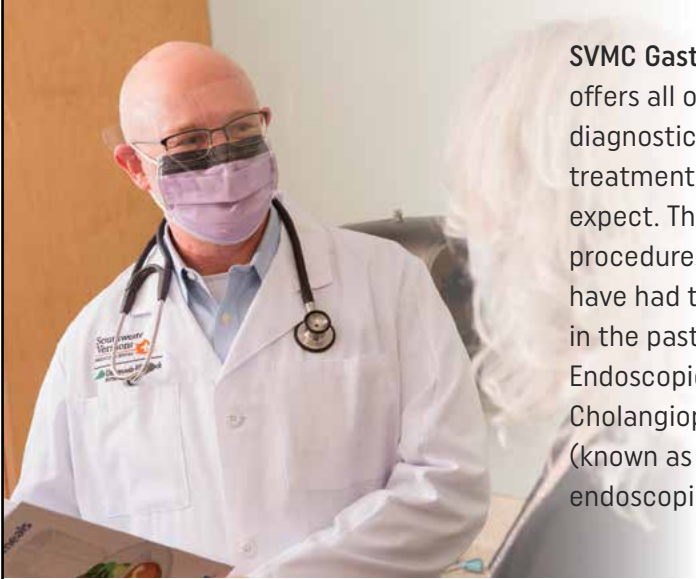
Michaela Schneiderbauer, MD, who heads the Orthopedics Department at SVMC was a recent guest on Medical Matters.

[center and facebook.com/CATTVBennington](https://facebook.com/CATTVBennington). Those viewing on Facebook will be able to contribute questions through the chat function.

Medical Matters Weekly is an interactive, multiplatform guest-driven talk show. It provides a behind-the-scenes perspective on health care, including

ing topics like behavioral health, food insecurity, equitable care and the opioid crisis.

SVMC Gastroenterology and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Putnam Physicians Welcome David L. Furman, MD



SVMC Gastroenterology offers all of the screenings, diagnostic tests, and treatments you would expect. They also provide procedures you may have had to travel for in the past, including Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (known as ERCP) and endoscopic ultrasound.

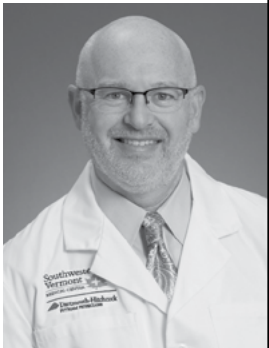
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